



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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GOVERNOR

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SECRETARY

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Pollution savings for the environment focus of Environmental Leadership Awards

BATON ROUGE – The Department of Environmental Quality recognized the achievements of industry, local governments, non-governmental organizations, schools and an individual during the 2009 Environmental Leadership Program Awards ceremony. New and existing members of the ELP were commended for their voluntary pollution prevention efforts and community educational outreach initiatives. The ceremony highlighted projects that went above and beyond regulatory compliance to substantially improve the quality of the environment. In 2008-2009, the ELP enrolled 48 new members.

Collectively, the efforts of ELP members in 2008-2009 resulted in 34,409,974 pounds of pollutants were removed from the environment. The pollutants removed included sodium chloride brine, carbon dioxide emissions, particulate matter (PM 10), oxides of sulfur and nitrogen, sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid, spent catalyst, spent caustic, etc. Additionally, 9,125,000 gallons of wastewater were reused and diverted from being discharged into the publicly owned treatment system. Also, 2,000,000 cubic yards of wood waste, 4,300 cubic yards of asphalt, and 3,111,341 pounds of e-waste, spent catalyst, hazardous waste, lithium batteries, filtercakes, etc., were recycled. A complete list of projects and honorees can be viewed on the DEQ Web site, www.deq.louisiana.gov/elp.

Senator Jody Amedee, Chairman of the Louisiana Senate Environmental Committee joined DEQ Secretary Harold Leggett to present the 2009 ELP awards. Dr. Leggett applauded the efforts made by the honorees in protecting Louisiana's environment.

“Companies, municipalities, schools and individuals that promote environmental improvements are helping to secure a cleaner future for Louisiana,” Leggett said. “This year, I asked Deputy Secretary Alex Appeaning to expand the traditional ELP award categories to include medium and small businesses, non-governmental organizations, schools and individuals. It takes the commitment of all entities in the state to achieve our goal of protecting the environment. The projects honored today reflect creativity, technical innovations, and enhanced efficiency.”

The Louisiana Environmental Leadership Program began in 1995 as a cooperative effort between DEQ and participating companies, organizations, and municipalities in the state. Today, any company, federal facility, municipality, school or individual committed to improving the quality of the state's environment is eligible to join the program.

For more information on the ELP, please contact Linda Brown at 225-219-3954.